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SPIO GARBRAH IS THE BEST ...CYNDC Tells Prez Mahama

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Some youth group and grass root supporters of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in the Central Region calling itself Central Youth for NDC (CYNDC) have thrown their unflinching and unadulterated support behind Mr. Ekwospi Garbrah to partner President John Dramani Mahama in the upcoming 2016 general elections.

There are indications that the sitting Vice President Mr. Amissah Arthur may not be selected again for the '2016 Mahama ticket' and readers will notice that ever since the NDC completed it's

Presidential and Parliamentary primaries a fortnight ago, some groups popped up to rally support and to court the attention of the President for personalities they believe are best suited for Mr. Amissah Arthur's position.

Two prominent names that have come up so far are the current Speaker of Parliament Hon. Doe Adjaho and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Member of Parliament for Awutu Senya Hon. Hannah Tetteh with various reasons and arguments being advanced for them.

But CYNDC clearly believes that Mr. SpioGarbrah is best suited for the position than the two personalities mentioned above.

In a statement signed by the group leader Michael Amissah, it indicated that "Spio is best cut for the Vice President position and well placed to partner the President giving his long standing with the party and his rich political life experience.

"SpioGarbrah is a fine personality and quite apart from his achievements and successes as a businessman, he also brings a certain appeal to the '2016 NDC ticket' and that is just one of the few reasons why we think he stands head and shoulder high above the rest of them," he said.

"We are not interested in the regional and tribal based arguments being advanced by some of those lobbying for certain personalities because our man Spio on his own is a huge statement as far as the vice president position is concerned and therefore we are appealing to president Mahama to consider him if he is looking for a formidable winning team," Michael Amissah stated.

Background of Spio

Ekwospi-Garbrah (born 1953) is a Ghanaian diplomat and politician. He is currently Ghana's Minister for Trade and Industry after parliamentary confirmation. He is a former **CEO** of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) based in London . He is one of Africa's pre-eminent public

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servants, and an authority on mass communications who has held several high-profile positions in the field. He is a former Minister of Communication of the Republic of Ghana , one-time Ambassador of Ghana to the United States and Mexico , Minister of Education, Minister responsible for Mines and Energy and a member of UNESCO 's Executive Board in Paris . He served in the cabinet during the democratic regime of Jerry John Rawlings between 1994 and 2000. Spio-Garbrah is a member of the board of directors of South Africa Telekom, AngloGold Ashanti and recently of Vodacom . He is also member of the International Advisory Board of the African Press Organization (APO).

Life

MrEkwoSpio-Garbrah's early business experience included working as a mortgage banker in New Jersey , as a sales executive with Southwestern Bell , and as chairman of the Middle East Africa Group within the international public relations firm of Hill and Knowlton in New York. In that capacity, from 1979 to 1985, he provided investment, export and tourism promotion counsel to the governments of Indonesia , Turkey , the Netherlands and Austria , financial relations advice to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank , Cr ditAgricole of France , UBAF-Arab American Bank, and energy sector intelligence to OPEC .

From 1988 to 1991, MrSpio-Garbrah was an External Relations Officer at the International Finance Corporation , the World Bank affiliate, in Washington, DC . From 1991 to 1994 he was Head of Communication at the African Development Bank , directing the bank's global corporate and marketing communications and acting as institutional spokesman.

As Ambassador to the United States from 1994 to 1997, Spio-Garbrah was noted for his success in rebuilding Ghana's image across the USA, including organising an unprecedented eight-city investment promotion programme for Ghana's President in the USA. As a result, partly of the successful bilateral programmes he executed, Ghana became the first country to be visited by U.S. President Bill Clinton during his famous five-country Africa visit in 1998 and is now a recipient of the Millennium Challenge Account .

As a Minister of Communication of Ghana, from 1997 to 1998, MrSpio-Garbrah initiated, developed and implemented policies and programmes that supported the increasing convergence of telecommunications, broadcasting, the Internet, publishing, news media and postal services, all of which were under his supervision. Concurrently, as chairman of the National Communication Authority, he had responsibility for regulating all aspects of the telecom, Internet and broadcasting sectors. MrEkwoSpio-Garbrah was also in charge of the Public Education Committee which successfully re-introduced the VAT to Ghana after a disastrous first attempt in the early 1990s had left scores of protesters people dead. The VAT today mobilizes billions of cedis for socio-economic and infrastructure development in Ghana.

While Education minister from 1998 to 2002, Spio-Garbrah was credited with the creation of the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund), which currently mobilizes over \$50 million each year domestically for educational sector infrastructure and student assistance programmes. The GETFund law has been widely praised as one of the most transformative pieces of legislation in Ghana's history relating to the education sector.

In December 2006 MrEkwoSpio-Garbrah contested the leadership of Ghana's main opposition party, the National Democratic Congress (NDC). Managing 8.7% of the vote, he came second to John Atta Mills , who subsequently won Ghana's 2008 presidential election . DrSpio-Garbrah remains a leading member of Ghana's now ruling NDC party. On 15 January 2010, MrEkwoSpio-Garbrah was elected a vice chairman of the NDC, and subsequently named Director of the Communications directorate of the party.

Dr. EkwoSpioGarbrah – Minister for Trade and Industry

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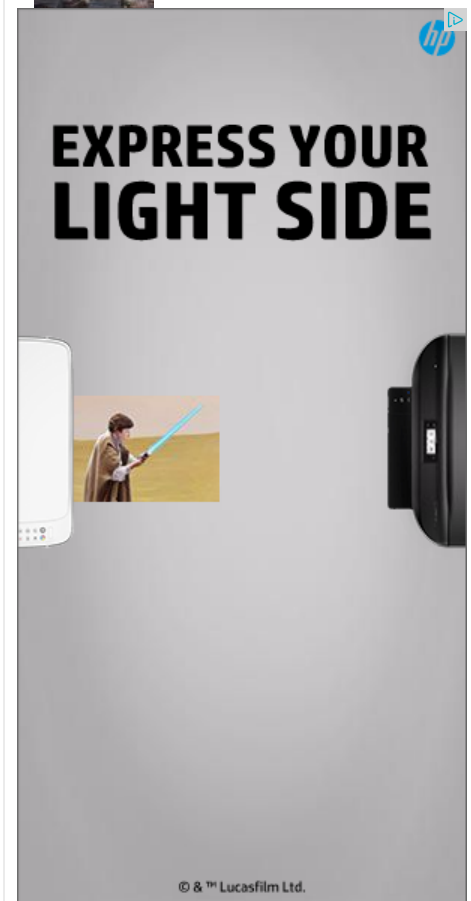
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